

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A focusing status detecting apparatus which detects a focusing status of a taking lens with respect to an image pickup device for image-output of a camera that obtains an image to be outputted, the focusing status detecting apparatus determining that the focusing status is one of front focus, rear focus, and in focus, the focusing status detecting apparatus comprising:

a plurality of image pickup devices for detecting the focusing status which detect the focusing status, the plurality of image pickup devices receiving subject light incident through the taking lens with different optical path lengths, a focusing evaluation value being obtained according to a high frequency component of each of images obtained by the plurality of image pickup devices for detecting the focusing status, the focusing status being determined according to the obtained focusing evaluation value,

wherein a number of pixels of the plurality of image pickup devices for detecting the focusing status is smaller than a number of pixels of the image pickup device for image-output, and the focusing status is detected within a frame range smaller than the entire frame range of the image to be outputted obtained by the image pickup device for image-output.

2. A focusing status detecting apparatus which detects a focusing status of a taking lens with respect to an image pickup device for image-output of a camera that obtains an image to be outputted, the focusing status detecting apparatus determining that the focusing status is one of front focus, rear focus, and in focus, the focusing status detecting apparatus comprising:

a plurality of image pickup devices for detecting the focusing status which detect the focusing status, the plurality of image pickup devices receiving subject light incident through the taking lens with different optical path lengths, a focusing evaluation value being obtained according to a high frequency component of each of images obtained by the plurality of image pickup devices for detecting the focusing status, the focusing status being determined according to the obtained focusing evaluation value,

wherein an image pickup size of the plurality of image pickup devices for detecting the focusing status is smaller than an image pickup size of the image pickup device for image-output, and the focusing status is detected within a frame range smaller than the entire frame range of the image to be outputted obtained by the image pickup device for image-output.